

## Message Text

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INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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SUBJ: NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN ON NEW DEFENSE AGREEMENT

REF: A) USNATO 5284 (NOTAL) DTG 241953Z OCT 75

B) COPENHAGEN 2947 (NOTAL) DTG 081630Z OCT 75

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SUMMARY: THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PARLIAMENTARY DEFENSE COMMITTEE ON THE QUESTION OF A NEW DEFENSE AGREEMENT OCCURRED ON OCTOBER 22 WITH THE NEXT, MORE SUBSTANTIVE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 12. FORMER LIBERAL PRIME MINISTER POUL HARTLING'S VIEW THAT A NEW AGREEMENT WILL BE ACHIEVED DURING THE PRESENT SESSION, ABOUT A YEAR BEFORE THE EXISTING AGREEMENT EXPIRES IN 1977, IS REPRESENTATIVE OF ALMOST ALL PARLIAMENTARY OPINION. ALTHOUGH THE POSITION OF THE RADICALS, WHO ARE PARTY TO THE PRESENT AGREEMENT, REMAINS UNCERTAIN, A SIZABLE PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY IN FAVOR OF A NEW AGREEMENT CAN BE EXPECTED. IN ALL LIKELIHOOD THE IMPORTANT FEATURES OF THE PRESENT AGREEMENT WILL BE PRESERVED BUT THE KEY QUESTION TO BE NEGOTIATED IS THE LEVEL OF DEFENSE SPENDING. END SUMMARY.

1) (REF A REPORTED ON THE OCTOBER 23 DRC MULTI-LATERAL REVIEW OF DANISH DEFENSE PLANS. REF B REPORTED PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN'S ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE OCTOBER 7 OPENING OF THE DANISH FOLKETING (PARLIAMENT) THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON A NEW DANISH DEFENSE AGREEMENT WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN DURING THE PRESENT SESSION.)

2) ON OCTOBER 22, PARLIAMENTARY-PARTY CONSIDERATION OF A NEW DEFENSE AGREEMENT OFFICIALLY BEGAN. (THE PRESENT FOUR-YEAR AGREEMENT, OR COMPROMISE, EXPIRES APRIL 1, 1977 AND WAS CONCLUDED AMONG THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC, LIBERAL, RADICAL AND CONSERVATIVE PARTIES WHICH TOGETHER CONSTITUTE A PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY.) ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE MEETING WAS LARGELY CEREMONIAL AND PROCEDURAL. DEFENSE MINISTER ORLA MOLLER, ACCOMPANIED BY DANISH DEFENSE CHIEF GENERAL O. BLIXENKRONE-MOLLER, PRESENTED AN EVALUATION OF THE SECURITY AND POLITICAL SITUATION AND DEFENSE MATERIEL REQUIREMENTS UP TO 1980, PARTICULARLY AS THEY HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY THE PURCHASE OF THE F-16. SINCE OCTOBER 22, THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN PREPARING QUESTIONS, INCLUDING WHETHER POSSIBLE CHANGES IN LONG-TERM DEFENSE PLANNING ARE REQUIRED, TO PUT TO THE DEFENSE MINISTER WHEN HE NEXT MEETS WITH THE COMMITTEE ON NOVEMBER 12.

3) DURING A RECENT LUNCHEON CONVERSATION, FORMER LIBERAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRIME MINISTER POUL HARTLING TOLD THE DCM AND POLCOUNS THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT A NEW AGREEMENT WILL BE WORKED OUT DURING THE PRESENT PARLIAMENTARY SESSION, PROBABLY EARLY NEXT SPRING. HE SAID THAT THE CONCLUSION OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT A YEAR IN ADVANCE OF THE EXPIRATION OF THE PRESENT ONE WOULD GIVE THE DANISH MILITARY AMPLE LEAD TIME FOR FUTURE PLANNING. HE ALSO SAID HE WAS SURE THAT THE NECESSARY VOTES IN PARLIAMENT WERE OBTAINABLE FOR AN

"ACCEPTABLE"" NEW AGREEMENT, BUT HE DID NOT ADDRESS HIMSELF TO THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE RADICALS - WHO DID NOT ATTEND THE OCTOBER 22 DEFENSE COMMITTEE MEETING - WOULD ULTIMATELY DECIDE TO PARTICIPATE.

4) COMMENT: ALL OF OUR PARLIAMENTARY SOURCES WHO HAVE ADDRESSED THEMSELVES TO THIS QUESTION OVER THE LAST YEAR ARE SURE THAT A SIZABLE MAJORITY IN THE PRESENT PARLIAMENT IS PREPARED TO SIGN ON FOR A NEW AGREEMENT. AMONG REMAINING UNCERTAINTIES, HOWEVER, IS THE POSITION OF THE RADICALS, FOR WHOM THE PACIFIST TRADITION HAS STRONG APPEAL. IF THE RADICALS DECLINE TO PARTICIPATE, THEIR PLACE IN A NEW AGREEMENT WOULD BE TAKEN BY THE CHRISTIAN PEOPLES PARTY AND THE CENTER DEMOCRATS, WHO MAY JOIN IN FORMALLY IN ANY CSE.

5) IT WOULD THUS APPEAR THAT A NEW AGREEMENT WOULD COMMAND THE SUPPORT OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS (54 SEATS), THE LIBERALS (42), THE CONSERVATIVES (10), THE CHRISTIANS (9), THE CENTER DEMOCRATS (4). GILSTRUP'S PROGRESS PARTY WOULD SPLIT ON THE ISSUE WITH MORE THAN HALF OF HIS 24 SEATS VOTING FOR A NEW AGREEMENT. THIS ADDS UP TO ABOUT 133 OF THE 179 TOTAL IN PARLIAMENT.

6) ALTHOUGH THE RADICALS WILL BE TEMPTED TO OPT OUT, THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY, REPRESENTED BY FORMER PRIME MINISTER HILMAR BAUNSGAARD, IS NOT PACIFISTIC. HE MAY WELL ARGUE IN PARTY CIRCLES THAT THE RADICALS SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS IN ORDER TO TEMPER AND MODIFY WHAT OTHERWISE MIGHT BE A "TOO MILITARISTIC" AGREEMENT.

7) PROBABLY THE IMPORTANT FEATURES OF THE PRESENT AGREE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENT WILL BE PRESERVED. THESE INCLUDE A BUILT-IN COMPENSATION FOR INFLATION AND MODEST REAL INCREASES IN FUNDS AVAILABLE OVER THE PERIOD FOR MATERIEL PURCHASES. THE HARD BARGAINING WILL TAKE PLACE OVER SPENDING LEVELS. ALTHOUGH THE DANES REALIZE THAT THEIR CONTRIBUTION OF AROUND 2-1/2 PERCENT OF GNP TO THE NATO COMMON DEFENSE IS AMONG THE LOWEST IN THE ALLIANCE, THE COUNTRY'S PRESENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND RELATIVELY HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT WILL BE USED AS ARGUMENTS BY THOSE WHO WISH TO CUT FUNDING LEVELS STILL FURTHER. ON NOVEMBER 6, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE, ARNE CHRISTIANSEN (LIBERAL) TOLD POLCOUNS THAT HE HOPES TO HOLD THE LINE AT THE EXISTING LEVEL BUT BELIEVES IT UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT THAT ANY INCREASE CAN BE OBTAINED. WHATEVER COMPROMISE IS REACHED WILL CERTAINLY BE THE FRAMEWORK FOR DANISH DEFENSE SPENDING FOR A PERIOD OF FOUR, SIX

OR EIGHT YEARS, DEPENDING ON THE DURATION OF THE NEW  
AGREEMENT.

8) OUR RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING ACTIONS THE US AND  
OTHER NATO ALLIES MIGHT TAKE WHILE A NEW DEFENSE AGREEMENT  
IS BEING CONSIDERED WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF A SEPARATE  
MESSAGE.  
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